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Serial No. 10/782,455
Art Unit: 2831 Examiner: Anton B. Harris
IBM Docket: AUS920031049US1(4037)

REMARKS

Claims 13-32 are pending, claims 25-32 stand restricted as being directed toward a different invention, and claims 13-24 stand rejected. Applicant respectfully cancelled claims 13-32 and added claims 33-52. Applicant respectfully suggests that the restrictions are unsupported and the rejections are not applicable to the new claims in light of the following remarks.

Restriction of Claims 25-32

The Office action states that claims 25-32 are directed at a "materially different apparatus such as a television or transceiver". Applicant reserves the right to file these claims in a divisional application and has added new method claims 45-52. The new method claims 45-52 are not directed at a "materially different apparatus".

Claim rejections under 35 USC § 102

Claims 13-24 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Farrand, U.S. Patent Application No. 3,614,541 (hereinafter referred to as "Farrand"). Applicant respectfully suggests that the rejections with respect to the new claims 33-52 are traversed with the following remarks.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single reference.¹ Furthermore, the identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim.²

With regards to claims 33-52, the Office action fails to establish a prima facie case of anticipation by Farrand for independent claims 33, 41, and 45 because citations of Farrand provided as support for the rejections fail to describe, suggest or teach "each and every element as set forth in the claim[s]".

In particular, for independent claim 13, the Office action (page 3, section 3, rejection of claim 13) states:

¹ *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

² *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

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Farrand (abstract) discloses ... a pattern of interconnects 30 applied to an interior surface 8-11 of the hardware casing 7 ... the mounting sites 2 for mounting the components (col. 2, lines 38-32) to the interior surface 8-11....

Similarly, for independent claim 21, the Office action (page 4, section 3, rejection of claim 21) states:

Farrand (abstract) discloses ... components (col. 2, lines 38-32) ... a pattern of interconnects 30 applied to an interior surface 8-11 of the hardware casing 7 ... mounts 2 coupling with the pattern of interconnects 30....

However, independent claim 33 states:

An enclosure for an electronic device, the enclosure comprising:
an interior surface and an outside surface of the enclosure, the interior surface enclosing the electronic device;
mounting sites to mount integrated circuits, wherein the mounting sites couple with the interior surface;
a pattern of interconnects coupled with the interior surface and interconnected with the mounting sites to transmit signals between the integrated circuits; and
at least one switch coupled with the pattern of interconnects at the interior surface and exposed via the outside surface of the enclosure to receive input from outside of the enclosure.

And independent claim 41 states:

A system comprising:
an enclosure comprising an interior surface and an outside surface, the interior surface enclosing an electronic device;
integrated circuits;
mounts in the enclosure to mount the integrated circuits, wherein the mounts couple with the interior surface;
a pattern of interconnects coupled with the interior surface and interconnected with the mounts to transmit signals between the integrated circuits; and
at least one switch coupled with the pattern of interconnects and exposed via the outside surface of the enclosure to receive input from outside of the system.

And independent claim 45 states:

A method comprising:
transmitting signals via interconnects;
transmitting the signals on an interior surface of an enclosure based upon a pattern of the interconnects on the interior surface, wherein the enclosure comprises the

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interior surface and an outside surface, the interior surface enclosing an electronic device, to one or more mounting sites on the interior surface, transmitting the signals via the one or more mounting sites on the interior surface to one or more integrated circuits at the one or more mounting sites; and receiving input from outside of the enclosure based upon a change in state of a switch exposed to the outside via an outside surface of the enclosure, to the interconnects at the interior surface of the enclosure.

As a response to Applicants prior arguments, the Office action further states that "...Farrands abstract clearly states that a circuit pattern is included on an interior surface of the housing...." However, Farrand does not describe, expressly or inherently, mounting sites to mount integrated circuits to an interior surface of an enclosure, "...the interior surface enclosing the electronic device...." Farrand describes mounting "integrated circuit components" on "module boards" or "boards", which are interconnected via wire patterns on the module boards and the circuits on both sides of the module boards are interconnected through the conducting strips on the inner sides of the housing (see col. 3, lines 38-47). In fact, Farrand even states that an object of the invention includes "provid[ing] a package in which circuits of modules are flexibly attached to the module boards to permit dimensional changes..." (see col. 1, lines 63-65). Thus, Applicant respectfully suggests that the rejection of claims 13-24 do not apply to the new independent claims and that claims 33, 41, and 45 be allowed.

Further, claims 34-40, 42-44, and 46-52 being dependent upon independent claim claims 33, 41, and 45, respectively, incorporate the limitations of claims 33, 41, and 45. Thus, Farrand does not teach all the limitations of dependent claims 34-40, 42-44, and 46-52. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of dependent claims 34-40, 42-44, and 46-52 be withdrawn and that dependent claims 34-40, 42-44, and 46-52 be allowed.

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CONCLUSION

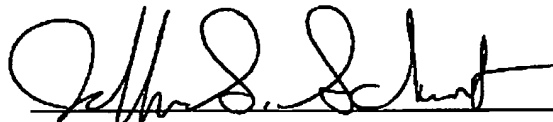
Applicant respectfully traverses the cited reference in regards to the new claims 33-52. Accordingly, Applicant believes that this response constitutes a complete response to each of the issues raised in the Office action. In light of the accompanying remarks, Applicant believes that the new claims are in condition for allowance. Thus, Applicant requests that the new claims be allowed and application advance toward issuance. If the Examiner has any questions, comments, or suggestions, the undersigned attorney would welcome and encourage a telephone conference at (512) 288-6635.

No fee is believed due with this paper. However, if any fee is determined to be required, the Office is authorized to charge Deposit Account 50-3295 for any such required fee.

Respectfully submitted,

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